

**Sierra Nevada Conservancy Grant Program
Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control,
River and Coastal Protection Act of 2006 (Proposition 84)**

Subregion: NORTH **County:** LASSEN/MODOC/SHASTA

Applicant: LASSEN COUNTY FIRE SAFE COUNCIL

Project Title: DAY LASSEN BENCH FUEL REDUCTION & WATERSHED RESTORATION

Reference Number: SNC 070147

PROJECT SCOPE

This project would apply biomass utilization thinning (cutting and chipping) to treat approximately 256 acres of mixed conifer in the Fall River Watershed in Lassen, Modoc and Shasta Counties to reduce fuels, thereby reducing fire risk for watershed resources and increasing fire safety for residential areas. The project would also assist homeowners in establishing adequate clearance around homes and advise them on ways to reduce risk of home ignitions during wildfire events. Specific actions would include:

- Treatment of 256 acres of mixed conifer forest and white-oak woodlands, including thinning of closed crown stands of mixed conifer forest in the wildland-urban interface areas with biomass utilization techniques that provide chipped materials to local energy production plants;
- Reduction of dangerous fuel loads along roads adjacent to national forest lands and evacuation routes in the watershed;
- Completion of risk assessments on private lands within the larger 3,150-acre landscape-level project area.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES	TIMELINE
Contract for mechanical fuel reduction services	September 2008
Remove excess fuels in the wildland-urban interface	September 2008
Remove excess fuels along adjacent roads	October 2008
Complete risk assessments on private lands	September 2008
Final Report/Final Payment Request	December 31, 2008

PROJECT COSTS

PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES	TOTAL SNC FUNDING
Fuel reduction treatment and risk assessment services contract (funding to treat specific acreage within a larger landscape project area)	\$95,999
5% administrative costs	\$4,000
GRAND TOTAL	\$99,999

Letters of Support:

None received.

Recommendation:

Staff recommendation is to fund at the requested amount of \$99,999.

2. Project Summary

Our project is a watershed restoration and fuel reduction project within the Fall River watershed in Lassen, Modoc and Shasta Counties. It is being implemented on a landscape scale that includes hundreds of private landowners in conjunction with federal efforts.

It is being implemented by the Lassen County Fire Safe Council, Inc. (LCFSC) in partnership with USFS, BLM, NRCS, local government, fire departments and private landowners. LCFSC is the lead and applicant for this project. We have provided these services in concert with the Day Lassen Bench Fire Safe Council, Inc. (DLBFSC) since 2002.

The primary restoration activities are the thinning of closed crown stands of mixed conifer forest in the residential setting through biomass utilization. Trees within these stands are beginning to succumb to bug kills. Ancillary actions include the risk assessments of hundreds of homes and fuel reduction along evacuation routes.

Our project will aid in restoring and conserving the Region's physical and living resources, aid in the preservation of working landscapes, reduce risk of wildfires, improve water and air quality, assist the Regional economy and enhance public lands. It will restore and protect habitat for numerous endangered species and species of concern.

The project is a priority of the Lassen County Community Wildfire Protection Plan. Most of the LCFSC administrative needs are being funded by the Lassen County Board of Supervisors, the ultimate sign of local and regional support. We are also working in tandem with the USFS, BLM and industrial forest landowners to reduce fuel loads in the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI).

LCFSC no longer builds fuel breaks. We have found that when a catastrophic fire event comes to the community, fuel breaks survive and a good portion of the community is destroyed. Our projects now treat the entire community landscape, assist property owners with meeting 100' clearance requirements and help homeowners identify and address risk within the home ignition zone. LCFSC has completed thousands of acres of landscape scale projects. Our planning effort was funded with support from the Fall River Resource Conservation District, the Lassen County RAC, USFS and the Lassen County Board of Supervisors. The implementation phase of this project has been funded by USFS, BLM, California Fire Safe Council, and the Lassen, Modoc & Shasta County RACs.

In the aftermath of the Angora Fire, The Day Lassen Bench Community has become a model for how to work within a complex environment and reduce wildfire threat, and do so at a reasonable cost. We are asking SNC for \$99,999 and we will use these funds to expand our \$750,000 Day Lassen Bench Fuel reduction project that began in 2004.